

# City of Fort Lauderdale Citizen of the Year

## PROCLAMATION HONORING MARY C. FERTIG AS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR FOR 2017

- WHEREAS,** *Mary C. Fertig is a seventh generation Floridian who was born in Miami, Florida on November 30, 1950 and moved to Fort Lauderdale with her family just months after her birth when her father left for Korea. As the daughter of a career military officer, she lived in Taiwan and Germany, as well as in many different areas of the United States; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Mary Fertig graduated from Fort Lauderdale High School, as did her parents and four of her six children. She attended Florida State University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in History, was an active campus volunteer, and a member of the Phi Mu Fraternity; and*
- WHEREAS,** *From 1972 to 1979, Mary Fertig was a teacher at Coconut Creek High School where she taught American History, Political Science, and Leadership, and served as the Student Council sponsor; and*
- WHEREAS,** *For more than 30 years, Mary Fertig has been a leading advocate for Fort Lauderdale's public schools, tirelessly working to ensure equity for every student, new and renovated facilities, quality leadership, and proper funding and resources so that every student has the opportunity to learn and succeed; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Mary Fertig's commitment to enhancing public education has benefited thousands of Fort Lauderdale youth through a myriad of specialized educational programs and new and renovated schools, including Thurgood Marshall Elementary, Virginia Shuman Young Elementary, Croissant Park Elementary, Sunland Park Elementary, Sunrise Middle School and, most recently, Stranahan High School; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Mary Fertig's extensive community involvement includes serving as a three-time Chairperson of the Broward Schools District Advisory Council and current Chairperson for the Audit Committee and the Parent Community Involvement Task Force. She is a member of the Junior League of Greater Fort Lauderdale, sits on the Board of Directors for the Historic Stranahan House Museum, and previously served on the boards of Friends of Southside, Friends of Shippey House, the Fort Lauderdale Planning and Zoning Board, and the City's Education Advisory Board; and*
- WHEREAS,** *As Chairperson of the Idlewyld Improvement Association and founding President of Lauderdale Tomorrow, Mary Fertig has worked cooperatively to elevate the character and livability of Fort Lauderdale pursuing issues such as traffic, transportation, infrastructure, and smart growth to achieve a safer, more sustainable city today and into the future; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Mary Fertig passionately believes the power of volunteers can truly change the world. Her grassroots advocacy for education, unwavering commitment to civic engagement, and stalwart dedication to the progress and advancement of the City of Fort Lauderdale is creating a brighter future for all.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:**

- Section 1:** *That Mary Fertig is hereby selected and honored as Citizen of the Year of the City of Fort Lauderdale for 2017 in recognition of her many accomplishments and valuable contributions to the City of Fort Lauderdale and that the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale hereby publicly recognizes and acknowledges these achievements and contributions and does hereby express its heartfelt appreciation to Mary Fertig.*
- Section 2:** *That a keepsake honoring Mary Fertig as Citizen of the Year of the City of Fort Lauderdale for 2017 shall be presented to her, and her portrait shall hang in City Hall.*
- Section 3:** *That a copy of this proclamation recognizing Mary Fertig as the 2017 Citizen of the Year shall be presented to her as a further token of the sincere gratitude and appreciation of the City of Fort Lauderdale.*

**DATED this,** the 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2017.



  
Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler  
